

VALVE STEM SEAL ASSEMBLY WITH CHANGEABLE CAP

Abstract of the Disclosure

A valve stem seal assembly includes a changeable cap. The cap is made of a flexible material, such as plastic or the like. A sealing element with sealing lips for sealing the valve stem is integrally bonded to the cap. The cap includes one or more tabs with a gripping member that cooperates with a corresponding gripping member on the retainer to snap-fit the cap onto the retainer. The retainer can also be made of plastic material. Once fitted onto the retainer, the cap can be easily removed by constructively destroying the one or more tabs using a tool, such as a screwdriver. A cap with a new sealing element can then be snap-fit on the retainer. The changeable cap allows for replacement of the sealing element without replacing the retainer or other components of the valve stem seal assembly.